



Water in Petroleum Storage Tanks

BUREAU OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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Madison, WI 53708
608-224-4942
datcp.wi.gov

RESOURCES

More information on applicable Wisconsin laws can be found at these links:

Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 94
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/090/94

Wis. Stat. 168
docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/168

Contaminated Fuel: Tank Pump Outs Fact Sheet:
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ContaminatedFuel-PumpOuts.pdf>

Tank Specialty Firm listing:
https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List_of_Tank_Specialty_Firm_Registrations.pdf

What if there is water in the tank?

- Water may not exceed the following depths, as measured with water-indicating paste, in any tank used in storing the following fuels for retail sale (Wisconsin Administrative Code § ATCP 94.320):
 - Gasoline-alcohol blends = ¼ inch
 - Aviation gas and aviation turbine fuel = 1 inch
 - Gasoline, diesel, gasoline-ether, and other fuels = 2 inches
- If the water level exceeds the measurements above, the water must be removed within 5 days. (Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 93.605(1)(g)(2))
- If the tank water level exceeds the fuel type's required minimum listed above:
 - Shut down the pumps immediately to prevent sale of the contaminated fuel.
 - Contact DATCP: (608) 224-4942 or datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov.
 - DO NOT pump out the contaminated fuel without DATCP authorization.
 - Pumping out suspected contaminated fuel without Weights and Measures inspector supervision is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 94.100(8)(b).
 - See our [Contaminated Fuel: Tank Pump Outs](#) fact sheet for additional information.
- A precision tightness testing of the piping and tank, including the ullage portion of the tank, must be performed with passing results before the tank can be returned to service.
- The tank system may be returned to service only after inspection and fuel testing by a Weights and Measures inspector. Unsupervised weekend pump outs due to water in the tank are not permitted.

Prohibited Practices:

- Sale of fuels in Wisconsin that do not meet national fuel quality specifications as required by [Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 94](#) are prohibited.
 - Fuels which fail to meet the required fuel specifications must be shut down until a pump out or blend is completed under the supervision of DATCP. The system may be reopened as soon as the product contained in the tank is verified by DATCP to meet the required operational and technical standards per [Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 94.100\(8\)\(b\)](#).
- Any fuel that is misidentified as to name or grade cannot be sold in Wisconsin per [Wis. Stat. Ch. § 168.14\(2\)](#).